



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

February 20, 2013

Jewel Mullen MD, MPH, MPA, Commissioner, (860) 509-7101

House Bill 5734 – AN ACT ALLOWING NATUROPATHS TO PRESCRIBE CERTAIN DRUGS

The Department of Public Health is opposed to House Bill 5734.

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 20-34, the practice of naturopathy means the science, art and practice of healing by natural methods and includes treatment by natural substances. Section 20-34 further defines "natural substances" as substances which are not narcotic substances, do not require the written or oral prescription of a licensed practitioner to be dispensed and are only administered orally. This bill would expand the scope of practice for licensed naturopaths and provide naturopaths with the authority to prescribe and administer drugs excluding controlled substances. A proposal to expand a professional scope of practice by adding prescriptive authority must be vetted through the Department's scope of practice review committee process. The scope of practice review process includes, but is not limited to, an assessment of any public health and safety risks that may be associated with the request and an evaluation of whether the request may enhance access to quality and affordable health care and whether the request enhances the ability of the profession to practice to the full extent of the profession's education and training. The Connecticut Naturopathic Physicians Association did submit a scope of practice request in August 2012 related to prescriptive authority; however, the Department was not able to establish a scope of practice review committee for their request within available resources.

As such, the Department opposes the proposed bill, and respectfully requests members of the Committee to vote in opposition to its enactment.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

*Phone: (860) 509-7269, Fax: (860) 509-7100
Telephone Device for the Deaf (860) 509-7191
410 Capitol Avenue - MS # 13GRE
P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134
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